

This Order Relates to All Actions.

1. This matter arises on the Plaintiffs’ Executive Committee’s (“PEC”) unopposed motion for appointment of a Special Master. (Dkt. No. 1615.)
2. The PEC requests appointment of a Special Master to organize, assess and review Common Benefit Fund submissions. These submissions are plaintiffs’ counsel’s time and expense records submitted monthly pursuant to Case Management Order No. 3. The PEC agrees to bear the cost of the Special Master’s responsibilities and duties, and specifically requests appointment of Mr. John W. Perry, Jr.
4. Rule 53 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure provides that the Court may appoint a Special Master to “perform duties consented to by the parties” Fed. R. Civ. P. 53(a)(1)(A). “Before appointing a master, the court must give the parties notice and an opportunity to be heard.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 53(b)(1). Then, the Court “may issue the [appointment] order only after: the master files an affidavit disclosing whether there is any ground for disqualification under 28 U.S.C. § 455[.]” Fed. R. Civ. P. 53(b)(3)(A). The Court “must fix the master’s compensation on the basis and terms stated in the appointing order,” which the Court may thereafter adjust after notice and opportunity to

be heard. Fed. R. Civ. P. 53(g)(1). The Special Master's compensation "must be paid" by a party, the parties, or a fund or subject matter of the action. Fed. R. Civ. 53(g)(2).

5. Accordingly, the Court hereby provides the parties notice of its intent to appoint John W. Perry, Jr. as Special Master relating to the review of plaintiffs' counsel's Common Benefit Fund submissions. The Court further provides the parties with an opportunity to be heard by submitting any response to this Order on or before May 28, 2021.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/ Richard Mark Gergel
Richard Mark Gergel
United States District Judge

May 19, 2021
Charleston, South Carolina